



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Municipal Gallery
Sunshine Task Force Committee

SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, February 12, 2018
6:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order

Date / Time: February 12, 2018 / 6:00 pm

In Attendance: Mayor Lili Bosse, Councilmember John A. Mirisch, Sonia Berman, Frances Bilak, Ed Brown, Linda Brown, Mark Elliot, Fred Fenster, Judie Fenton, Murray D. Fischer, Lori Greene-Gordon, Marcia Hobbs-The Beverly Hills Courier, Myra Lurie, Steve Mayer, Susan Mishler, Elliot Ponchick, Ronald Richards, Alissa Roston, Stella Sarraf, Victoria Talbot-The Beverly Hills Courier, Robert Tanenbaum, Thomas White, Debbie Weiss (via phone), Allyson Wittner, Assistant City Manager George Chavez, City Attorney Larry Wiener, Chief Assistant City Attorney Lolly Enriquez, Director of Community Development Susan Healy-Keene, Assistant Director of Administrative Services Tatiana Szerwinski, Community Outreach Manager Huma Ahmed, Assistant City Clerk Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez

1) Oral Communications

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item not listed on the agenda.

Steve Mayer read his comments as follows: (1) suggestion for a future Sunshine Task Force Committee agenda item to add an attestation to the application form that no member of a developer/contractor's team has been subject to a disciplinary action on any development in any city; (2) disciplinary actions by the Community Preservation Office should be available in the City's online property database; and (3) a contractor (e.g., West Coast Arborist) who violates the code, breaks state law, and places its workers at risk should not be involved in any way in the City.

2) Discussion of proposal to address concerns about the public's ability to respond to and rebut before the City Council and Commissions at Public Hearings

There was an extensive discussion regarding the request to change the Public Hearing process during Council and Commission meetings so that residents are given the same time limit as developers to speak and give information about projects during Council and

Commission public hearings, have the ability to rebut what the developers say, and have the final comment on projects. It was also suggested to allow residents living within the area of the project to have a say in the final decision as they are the most affected by the project.

It was also brought up that the General Plan is not being taken into consideration in the decision-making for projects. Planning Commission Chair Lori Greene Gordon commented that the Planning Commissioners have no training on the obligations to follow the General Plan and some of the Planning Commissioners are not aware of the obligations. Councilmember Mirisch commented that the General Plan should always be upheld for all project decisions.

Mayor Bosse directed City Attorney Laurence Wiener to add an item on the March 6, 2018 City Council Study Session agenda changing the Public Hearing procedures for City Council and Commission meetings to allow residents to rebut applicants with the following speaking order: (1) applicant, (2) legislative advocates, (3) residents, (4) rebuttal by applicant, and (5) rebuttal by residents. Mayor Bosse also directed the City Clerk's Office to arrange speaker cards received during City Council meetings to follow the proposed hearing procedure, with the applicants first, followed by legislative advocates and residents.

3) Noticing procedures for projects

It was brought up by Ronald Richards and Allyson Wittner that the 10 days and 500 feet noticing of a proposed construction site and block face are not adequate. It was proposed to increase the notification to 20 days and 1000 feet. Murray Fischer commented that the proper time to send a notice of the Public Hearing is once the project is deemed complete.

Mayor Bosse directed Mr. Wiener to add an item on the March 6, 2018 City Council Study Session agenda increasing the period of notification from 10 to 20 days as well as the distance from 500 feet to 1000 feet.

4) Discussion on ensuring that lobbyist registration forms filed are in substantial compliance with the ordinance

Mr. Richards suggested that lobbyists update their filed forms to comply with the recently revised legislative advocate ordinance. Mr. Fischer recommended compliance just moving forward. Debbie Weiss suggested updating the forms for current projects only while Myra Lurie and Frances Bilak recommended updating the forms periodically as necessary.

Mr. Richards also commented that the form has some deficiencies that need to be discussed. Mayor Bosse directed the item be agendaized for the next Sunshine Task Force meeting for discussion.

Mayor Bosse directed Mr. Wiener to add an item on the March 6, 2018 City Council Study Session agenda requiring legislative advocates who have registered one year ago from February 8, 2018 when the amended ordinance took effect to re-register using the new legislative advocate form. She also directed Mr. Wiener to notify all lobbyists that the item will be on the City Council Study Session agenda for discussion.

5) Discussion on expanding access to city data under the "open gov" initiative

Item not discussed.

6) Discussion on when is it appropriate to expect from a city official the provision of information relating to a policy or program versus the advisability of filing a public records request as the first step to gaining that information

Marcia Hobbs and Victoria Talbot from the Beverly Hills Courier, and Mr. Mayer brought up that they have received incomplete responses to their Public Records Act requests, received late responses, and in one instance the flash drive containing the responsive information could not be opened. Mayor Bosse directed Assistant City Manager George Chavez and Mr. Wiener to look into these issues and provide the information being requested, if not already provided.

7) BHUSD

Item not discussed.

8) Voter Fraud

Item not discussed.

9) Adjournment

Date / Time: February 12, 2018 / 7:28 pm